



A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
(Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades,  
Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

**APRIL 2004 "EARTH DAY" ISSUE**

Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve  
(Formerly Ahmanson Ranch)  
Officially Dedicated on April 10, 2004



## Upper Las Virgenes Canyon – Continued



l-r: Congressman Brad Sherman, Assemblymember Fran Pavley, VC Supervisor Linda Parks, LA Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, LA City Councilmember Dennis Zine, Senator Sheila Kuehl, SMMC Executive Director Joe Edmiston

Although purchase by the State of California of the former Ahmanson Ranch closed escrow in November of 2003, on April 10, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority hosted the formal dedication of **Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve** at a wonderful event on site that was open to all members of the public.

Among the speakers were the Governor's Secretary of Resources, Mike Chrisman; Congressman Brad Sherman, State Senator Sheila Kuehl; L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks; and L.A. City Councilmember Dennis Zine. The morning began with a Chumash blessing by Mati Waiya of the Wishtoyo Foundation.

For 15 years of relentless work to save this magnificent parcel of almost 3,000 pristine acres, Chair of Save Open Space and Agoura Hills resident, Mary Wiesbrock, received two special recognitions. Congressman Sherman presented her with an American flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol. And the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy surprised her with a replica sign of the newly-designated "Mary Wiesbrock Loop Trail."



l-r: Joe Edmiston, Mary Wiesbrock, Hon. Linda Parks

*"It is our task in our time and in our generation to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours."*  
- John F. Kennedy

*"I've got a dream too, but it's about singing and dancing and making people happy. That's the kind of dream that gets better the more people you share it with."*

-- Kermit the Frog

Never underestimate the power of a frog... or his red-legged cousins.



# Cell Phone Recycling Bill

Among the bills I introduced this year is AB 2901, which requires retailers of cell phones to have a plan in place to ensure a cost-free and convenient system for all cell phones to be recycled or refurbished and reused, so that they do not end up in the waste stream. It's not their size that makes them dangerous, but rather what's inside them – lead, mercury, and other toxic substances.

In 1985, there were only about 300,000 cell phone subscribers. Today, there are over 152 million, and with the rapid escalation of cell phone technology and the ever growing number of features cell phones offer, the average consumer now keeps his or her phone for only about 18 months. The old one usually gets stuffed in a drawer somewhere and forgotten. At some point it's probably going to get tossed in the trash.

You might be aware of some of the recycling programs that elements of the industry and some nonprofits have established, where the phones are often refurbished and donated to charities. Others are sold overseas. But of the hundreds of millions of obsolete cell phones that have been discarded over the last few years, only about 2.5 million have been collected for recycling since 1999.

Most consumers are just unaware of the toxicity of their phones. Did you know that it is illegal to put cell phones and other e-waste into a city landfill? If burned in an incinerator, they pollute the air with poisons. If landfilled, they can leach into soil and drinking water. Many of the toxic substances they contain also lodge in the tissues of plants and animals, thus becoming a dangerous component of the food chain where they affect us, especially children. AB 2901 will establish an easy and convenient way for consumers to dispose of their old cell phones -- properly and safely.

# Hybrid Vehicles to Use HOV Lanes?



On April 8, at a press event at the Skirball Cultural Center, I announced new legislation to help clear California's air, boost the state's energy independence, and cut greenhouse gases by opening California's high occupancy vehicle (carpool) lanes to fuel-efficient hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs).

My bill, AB 2628, is sponsored by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Treasurer Phil Angelides. It would allow HEVs that meet tough emissions and fuel efficiency standards access to the diamond lanes, regardless of the number of people in the vehicle. Hybrid vehicles that would

be eligible today for HOV access include the Honda Insight, Honda Civic Hybrid, and Toyota Prius. As new hybrid vehicles are developed, those that meet the standards would also become eligible.

AB 2628 passed in the Assembly Transportation Committee on April 12. It could only take effect after the federal government acts to approve the use of HOV lanes by hybrids (because federal funds are used to construct HOV lanes). Authorizing legislation is now included in the pending federal surface transportation funding bill.

Among the speakers at the press conference was environmental activist and Pacific Palisades resident, Laurie David. "Opening diamond lanes to hybrids is a small, but sweet, reward for an intelligent choice," she said. "Diamonds can now be a hybrid's best friend."



l-r: Cal/EPA Director Terry Tamminen, Hon. Fran Pavley, State Treasurer Phil Angelides, NRDC Trustee Laurie David

# Global Climate Change Conference

*"People and nations behave wisely  
once they have exhausted all the alternatives."*  
-- Winston Churchill

I just returned from a three-day conference hosted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) at the UCLA Conference Center at Lake Arrowhead. This informative symposium featured experts from around the world -- distinguished scientists, university professors, policy wonks from both the public and private sectors, and others. Governments represented included Germany, Brazil, Japan, India, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Mexico, joining state and national leaders to discuss climate change.

The U.S. has 4% of the world's population, yet emits 25% of the greenhouse gases. The international community is very concerned about the United State's lack of a national policy on climate change. One panel discussion focused on how international communities are mitigating climate change and reducing greenhouse gases. In China, exploding sales and use of cars by millions of their citizens, plus the amount of oil being imported, is also causing concern.

There is compelling evidence that links global air pollution impacts, climate change, and human health. One presenter analyzed the European heat wave in August 2003 to underscore the inability of public health systems to cope. There were 20,000 excess deaths in Europe in August of 2003, as well as flooding earlier in the year. England has made a clear linkage between climate change, human behavior, and air pollution. TV ads show how the public can reduce greenhouse gas emissions they emit. European insurance companies are becoming worried about the increase in climate variability from floods to drought. What adaptations are needed to prepare for possible scenarios? What should governments be doing?

Several speakers focused their comments on the impacts to California. The patterns of precipitation (snow or rain) can be as important as the amount. It does matter when snow melts, for example. Records show that spring is coming earlier. Water resources are critical to agriculture, our growing population, and have implications on energy usage. More rain, less snow, earlier flows, more floods, longer and drier summers have all been predicted by computer modeling.

## **AB 1493**

*One panel of particular interest to me covered implementation of AB 1493, my 2002 greenhouse gas emission reduction bill for motor vehicles, which has gained international attention. It requires the CARB to develop regulations that achieve the maximum feasible reduction of greenhouse gases from passenger cars and light-duty trucks. The California Medical Association recently approved a resolution "urging the CARB to adopt and implement the strongest possible regulations under AB 1493, the Clean Cars Law." The CARB will be releasing their proposed regulations in July, and it is expected that the Board will take formal action to adopt them in September.*

*I was impressed and very pleased to hear that Canada is proposing to adopt California's AB 1493 regulations as their national standards.*

## Senator Feinstein Asks Fed to Help with Gas Prices

On April 5, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein sent a letter to Michael Leavitt, Administrator of the U.S. EPA, asking him to help relieve Californian's from soaring gasoline prices. She has requested an emergency waiver of the federal oxygenate requirement for California, while awaiting action on the request for a permanent waiver.

"I still have not heard from you regarding my request in February for a timeline relating to California's application for a waiver from the federal oxygenate requirement," Senator Feinstein's letter states. "Ethanol only adds to the upward pressure at the pump. As you may know, during the summer blending season, which California has already entered, gasoline has to be refined to a lower Reid vapor pressure. As a result, we lose about 10% of gasoline volume when we add ethanol to our summer blends." The continuing lack of a federal waiver is estimated to be costing motorists 20 cents a gallon.

## "Clean Cities Clean Oceans"

Santa Monica Baykeeper, in cooperation with the L.A. Unified School District/L.A. Urban System Program, has a great new contest underway. Entry forms require each contestant to take two or more of the following actions: 1) Pick up at least 10 pieces of trash and properly dispose of or recycle them. 2) Pick up after their pet and encourage at least one other person to do so. 3) Not pour motor oil, paint, or other hazardous waste into the gutters/storm drains. 4) Not over-water or over-use pesticides on their lawn/garden.

Completed forms can be requested by calling (310) 822-4522, or can be filled out on-line at [www.smbaykeeper.org](http://www.smbaykeeper.org). They are **due at the Baykeeper office by May 5, 2004**. First prize is two tickets on Southwest Airlines. Second prize is a family weekend getaway at Calamigos Ranch. Third prize is a Patagonia fleece jacket, and there are other prizes as well.

## Quaker/Ross Offer to Dedicate

At times, a development application, especially in areas where the land has high resource value, will be coupled with an offer to dedicate (OTD) part of the land to a park or similar agency for preservation. One such instance is 70 acres south of the Monte Nido community in the Santa Monica Mountains. Known as the Quaker/Ross property, it has pristine habitat, a year-round stream, a riparian woodland of regional significance, and the Backbone Trail running through it. An OTD that is not acted upon within the specified length of the offer, however, expires, and the land can revert to the property owner.

Thanks go to Calabasas resident and open space watchdog, Dave Brown, for noticing that an OTD that was obtained from the property owner for this resource-rich portion of the property in 1983 had never been formally picked up by State Parks. I contacted State Parks, who researched the dedication, and Director Ruth Coleman confirmed to me in writing that it has not yet expired. They will be accepting the OTD by the end of this calendar year. It's wonderful seeing the linkages of open space parcels in the Santa Monicas steadily growing.

## Malibu Water Quality Conference

Malibu's beautiful coastline is a treasure for local residents and visitors. However, the local beaches frequently receive failing water quality grades. On **Saturday, May 8**, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and the City of Malibu will be co-sponsoring an important conference on what actions can and must be taken to restore Malibu's beaches with water quality that matches its beautiful setting. The keynote speaker will be Terry Tamminen, Secretary of CalEPA. A distinguished panel of experts and stakeholders will be doing an overview of the contributing sources of contamination, what is being done now, and what steps are still needed.

**Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon**

**Place: Pepperdine University Graziadio Executive Ctr., Malibu**



This should be a most interesting morning. To reserve a space, you can either email your request to [lgallard@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:lgallard@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov), or call (213) 576-6613.



# Ormond Beach Restoration Study Funding Secured

For years, the residents in and around South Oxnard have held fast to the dream that the long-degraded wetlands at Ormond Beach might one day be restored to a fully-functioning natural wetland that would be habitat for all the coastal birds and marine wildlife in the area, and serve the community as a wonderful visitor destination. Although the California Coastal Conservancy had set aside roughly \$23 million last year in voter-approved water quality and watershed funds (that cannot be used to help solve the state's budget problems) for this project, they were, for a time, frozen as a part of this year's budget difficulties.



Those funds have now been released, which means that the Conservancy is back on track. It's working with the owners of significant parcels to acquire them on a voluntary basis in order to assemble the roughly 750 acres that would be needed to restore tidal function, etc. Much credit goes to the Saviers Road Design Team and to the many others in that community who worked so hard for so long to see this project finally launched. State Senator Sheila Kuehl named Jean Harris, long-time Oxnard open space activist, as her Senate "Woman of the Year" for Jean Harris' steadfast commitment over many years to preserving Ormond Beach.

## Here's the Real Dirt ...

Spring is officially here, and for gardeners who live in the Las Virgenes MWD service area, one of the best kept secrets around is the **free compost** that you can pick up every Saturday morning at the District's compost facility. Bring your own bags, trash barrels, or even a truck, and load up as much as you want. On the first Saturday of this month, they gave away over 100 cubic yards of this great gardening material. The compost facility is located at the intersection of Las Virgenes Road at Lost Hills Road in Calabasas. Take the driveway on the east side of Las Virgenes Road and drive directly to the building. Come early enough, and you may even see deer grazing in the meadow. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## Water-efficient Appliances

- If you're planning on replacing a washing machine or toilet, the Las Virgenes MWD has substantial **rebates available** if you buy water-efficient models. And **free water-efficient shower heads** can be picked up at the District Office. Details on the rebate programs are available online at [www.lvmwd.com](http://www.lvmwd.com), or call the District at (818) 251-2200.
- Flex Your Power, the **statewide energy efficiency campaign**, is participating in an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 17 on the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica. In addition to many earth-friendly exhibits and information, they will be presenting a new Energy Star washer and dryer at 2:00 at the main stage to the Asian American Drug Abuse Program. This giveaway is part of a statewide effort to demonstrate the staggering amounts of energy, water, and money Californians can save just by replacing old appliances with new efficient models.
- If you are a DWP customer within the City of Los Angeles, information on their **appliance rebate** programs can be found on their website at [www.greenla.com/conservation](http://www.greenla.com/conservation).
- Other water districts also offer incentives to purchase water-efficient appliances, so check with your local water company.

## "A Breath of Air" Video Available

The California Air Resources Board, with support from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and EPA, have released a 28-minute video that describes the results of the "Children's Health Study" that is being conducted out of the University of Southern California. The subtitle of this very interesting video is "What pollution is doing to our children."

I have two copies available for loan. If your organization would like to borrow a copy to review or present to your members, please call my district office and it will be sent to you.

## Assemblymember Pavley's Committee Assignments

Appropriations Committee  
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee  
Budget Committee  
Education Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Select Committee on California Ports  
Select Committee on Coastal Protection  
Select Committee on the Future of California's Health  
Select Committee on National Defense, Technology and Jobs  
Select Committee on Sustainability  
Select Committee on Title IX  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources  
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality  
Chair, Select Committee on Hydrogen and Other Alternative Fuels  
  
Legislative Advisory Committee – Wildlife Conservation Board  
Legislative Advisory Committee – California Coastal Conservancy  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board

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Their name, mailing address and e-mail address, and I'll be happy to add them to my list.

